
Maricopa Public Library Unattended Children Policy

PURPOSE

The Maricopa Public Library hopes children who use the library will see it as a warm, inviting, and enriching place. However, young children are not safe when left unattended in the library. The responsibility for the safety of children in the library rests with the parent/caregiver and not with library staff. The Maricopa Public Library does not and cannot act as a baby-sitter or day care center for children and will not monitor children who are left unattended. For the protection and well being of the children who enjoy the library, the following policy has been established:

- Children age ten (10) and under must have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child at all times.
 - If a child of this age is found unattended, library staff will attempt to locate or contact the parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, the police will be called to assume responsibility for the child.
 - Children ages eleven (11) to thirteen (13) may not be left unattended in the library for more than three hours a day.
 - Children of this age must have the phone number of their parent/caregiver so a responsible person can be reached in case of an emergency. If the parent/caregiver cannot be reached, the police will be called to assume responsibility for the child.
 - Children thirteen (13) and under are not to remain at the library after closing.
 - If anyone thirteen (13) or under is left at the library after closing, library staff will attempt to contact the child's parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver cannot be contacted, or the child is not picked up within 10 minutes after closing, library staff will call the police to assume responsibility for the child.
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